

What is bone marrow?

Bone Marrow is where your blood cells are made. It is found in many bones in your body although is most easily taken from your pelvis (hips).

You have three main types of blood cells:

- ❖ Red Cells: carry oxygen around your body
- ❖ White cells: fight infection
- ❖ Platelets: help your blood to clot

Why do I need a bone marrow test?

You have been asked to have a bone marrow biopsy so your doctor can look at the way your blood cells are made.

What is a bone marrow biopsy?

This involves taking a small sample of your bone marrow by a specially trained Doctor. It is a Day Case procedure that happens on Turner Ward This is located on level 6 in the old hospital block. This will only take a few minutes, but you will probably be within the department for about an hour.

You will be asked to lie on your side with your knees drawn up to your chest. The area around your hips at the back will be cleaned and a local anaesthetic injected under the skin in this area.

The area will become numb. You may feel some pushing as the doctor takes the biopsy. This only takes a few minutes and should not be painful, but you may experience some discomfort for a few seconds.

After the biopsy, a plaster is applied and should be left in place for 24 hours; you should not wash this area during that time.

What are the side effects?

There are usually very few problems.

- ❖ You may experience some discomfort. This is normal and you may need to take mild painkillers such as Paracetamol for a day or two.
- ❖ Bleeding - Occasionally, there may be bleeding from the biopsy site. A nurse will check the site is not bleeding before you leave.

The bone marrow is then examined under a microscope. This enables your doctor to decide if the blood cells are being produced normally. Sometimes some of your bone marrow may be sent away for further tests.

Your bone marrow is stored within the department permanently. This is for your benefit should we ever need to refer to it in the future and may be used for control or teaching purposes.

If you have any further questions or if you have any problems after the biopsy, please phone and a nurse will help to answer your queries:

**Ricky Grant Day Centre
Mon – Fri, 9am - 5pm on
☎ Tel. (01803) 655219**

How to Get to Turner Ward at Torbay Hospital

The Unit is situated on level 6 in the old hospital block.

To reach us, enter the hospital through Zone B, level 4. Take the glass link corridor and turn left at the end of it.

Immediately on your left you will find the lift and stairs, which will take you to level 6. Turn right to Turner Ward.

If you need help finding us or require a wheelchair, please ask at the Reception Desk at the Main Entrance on level 4.

We have arranged for your bone marrow biopsy as follows:

Name: _____

Hospital No:

On:

Time:

Torbay and South Devon 
NHS Foundation Trust



**PATIENT
INFORMATION**

Having a Bone Marrow Test